



NEWS RELEASE

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT OFFICE

U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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Contact: Suzanne Ghorpade, (619) 557-7250, x1114

Release Number: 03-01

Email: suzanne.ghorpade@sba.gov

Internet Address: www.sba.gov

SBA NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN WEIGHS IMPACT OF FEDERAL REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

SAN DIEGO –Small business owners with concerns or complaints about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can voice their concerns at a U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Regulatory Fairness Board Hearing and SBA Roundtable in San Diego on March 11th. The Regulatory Fairness Hearing will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and the Roundtable from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room, 2150 Pan American Road West, San Diego, CA 92101.

SBA National Ombudsman Michael Barrera will conduct the hearing. "Small businesses want and deserve a fair federal regulatory enforcement process," said Barrera. "They want a common sense approach to problem-solving, and a strong voice in the regulatory process."

SBA's San Diego District Director said, "This is an excellent opportunity for small businesses to voice their grievances about excessive federal regulatory enforcement. These hearings are proving very beneficial in identifying and resolving issues, to help make the federal regulatory environment more business friendly."

SBA's National Ombudsman works directly with as many as 35 different federal regulatory agencies to encourage a more business-friendly regulatory environment and to resolve complaints. Congress created the Office of the National Ombudsman in 1996 with the passage of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

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The act established 10 regional fairness boards, served by 50 small business owners from across the country. XXXXXXXX, President/CEO from XXX is a member of the board in region IX, which includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam.

Based in part on information gathered at these hearings, SBA's National Ombudsman prepares an annual report to Congress with findings and recommendations on the regulatory environment and its effect upon small businesses. Each federal regulatory agency's responsiveness to comments is reviewed in the report.

The National Ombudsman's authority to respond to comments on compliance issues is limited to federal regulatory enforcement matters and does not include concerns about obtaining federal contracts or securing guaranteed loans.

Anyone interested in testifying at the hearing can contact the Office of the National Ombudsman at 202-205-2417, or Suzanne Ghorpade, SBA's Public Information Officer in San Diego at 619-557-7250, extension 1114. For more information on SBA's National Ombudsman and this hearing, visit the SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman.

The SBA helps small businesses each year with access to capital through its financial assistance programs, and provides technical training and business start-up and expansion counseling, disaster loans for businesses and home owners, and federal contracting and procurement assistance. For more information about SBA's programs and services, visit SBA's Web site www.sba.gov, or call the SBA's Answer Desk at 1-800 U-ASK-SBA, or TDD 704-344-6640.

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